Converting rotten and low cost foodgrains into alcohol

†4685. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorities in CSIR have proposed conversion of rotten and low cost foodgrains into alcohol;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study regarding economic viability of such conversion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and likely benefits from such move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Starvation deaths in Rajasthan

4686. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the Government of India spending huge amount on stocking surplus grain *i.e.* 48.2 million tonnes in 2002-03, far in excess of buffer norm of 25 million tonnes, 15 starvation deaths were reported in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government have any planning to prevent such deaths this year and what strategy have Government been considering to tackle this; and

(c) how Government propose to monitor implementation of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Government of Rajasthan has reported that no starvation death has occurred in the State.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Adequate foodgrains are allocated to various States/Union Territories including Rajasthan under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other food based welfare schemes to ensure food security in the country. The implementation of TPDS is the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments whereas implementation of various welfare schemes is monitored by the concerned nodal Ministries/Departments. Government of Rajasthan has also introduced 'Food Stamp Yojana' in 2004 to ensure that no one dies due to hunger in the State. Under the scheme, 100 coupons for 10 kg. wheat each, are provided to Sarpanch of each Gram Panchayat, which are distributed to persons who may be at the verge of starvation. These can be presented to Fair Price Shops for obtaining 10 kg. wheat free of cost. The implementation of the scheme is monitored through the agency of the District Collectors and District Supply Officers.

Fire in Gir National Park

4687. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out around March 13, 2005, in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary in Gujarat; if so the reason therefor;

(b) the extent of damage to flora and fauna in the Sanctuary caused thereby;

(c) whether any inquiry has been held into the fire;

(d) the steps taken to make good the loss and protect and preserve it against further damage; and

(e) the latest report about the presence of the Asiatic lion and other big cats in the Park and the sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir. The has reported that an accidental fire broke out on March 13, 2005 in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary in Gujarat.

(b) An area of 84.8 hectares was affected by fire. No damage to flora and fauna has been reported except burning of dried grass and leaves.

(c) Yes Sir.